

per head of the population. Do you expect that the people of this country will stand for that? Do you expect the farmers who represent seventy per cent of the population of this country, and who have to work hard to earn their money will stand for it? No, Mr. Chairman. I say to the right hon. gentleman who leads the Government that on account of this great expenditure he is afraid to appeal to the people on this question for I believe the majority of the people think as I do, and would return to power the man who had one policy for Quebec, Ontario, and the whole of the nine provinces of this country, the man who was willing to take his political life in his hands to defend what he thought was right in the interests of his country. If this money were spent in Canada, about seventy per cent of it would go into the pockets of the working men, and that would mean something for the people of this country. I for one believe that if this question were submitted to the people, the Liberal party would be returned to power, because we have only one policy, and that is a Canadian policy. Now, I would like to place on 'Hansard' this quotation from a London newspaper:

Borden Policy bad for Empire—London Press Opinion.

London, March 11—Under the caption of 'Bad Imperialism.' The Daily News and Leader, which is generally regarded as reflecting the views of the Asquith Government, discusses the wisdom of Mr. Borden's plan of forcing the Naval Bill through by means of the closure. 'The least concession he can make to the Canadian people,' it declares, 'is to consult them before committing them to a constitutional revolution condemned by all the other dominions. It must not be imagined that Canadian Liberals are alone in condemnation of the Borden scheme.'

It proceeds: The Australian Government have repudiated any extension of it to Australia. Mr. Sauer, on behalf of the South African Government, has expressed his fear that the movement which is going on in different parts of the Empire is not wholly spontaneous, criticises Canada's policy of having a minister on the council of defence, and doubts whether South Africa would follow suit.

'The first fruits, therefore, of the Borden policy,' continues the Daily News, are domestic crisis in Canada of the first magnitude. We have from the first criticised the substance of the Borden scheme on constitutional grounds. We have repeatedly insisted that it was doing an ill-service to the Empire to make the navy an issue between the parties in the dominions. Now that Borden's scheme has been pushed to the point of an acute political crisis in Canada, it will be agreed by all rational minds that it is doing the worst service to Imperial unity.

Now, Mr. Chairman, with regard to this question of giving or loaning three dreadnoughts to the British Admiralty, I would like to read you the letter of resignation

Mr. TOBIN.

sent to the Prime Minister by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk). There have been certain changes with respect to the question of the emergency. It was an emergency gift a few months ago. The other day the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. White) said that it was a loan, and that we would call these boats back. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier resigned his position as Minister of Public Works and wrote the Prime Minister on October 18, 1912, as follows:

Right hon. R. L. Borden, Prime Minister,

My dear Premier:—

I regret to find I cannot concur in the decision, arrived at by the Cabinet yesterday, to place on behalf of Canada an emergency contribution of \$35,000,000 at the disposal of the British Government for naval purposes, with the sanction of Parliament but without giving the Canadian people an opportunity of expressing their approval of this important step before it is taken. Such a concurrence would be at variance with my pledges, and the Act proposed is of sufficient gravity to justify my insistence. It goes beyond the scope of the Constitutional Act of 1867.

Holding this view, as a member of your cabinet, I feel it my duty to place my resignation in your hands, permit me to add my decision has been reached with regret on account of my agreeable relation at all times with yourself.

Yours sincerely.

(Sgd.) F. D. Monk.

I understand that the Prime Minister later on, in explaining the resignation of the then hon. Minister of Public Works to the House, said that that hon. gentleman was moved by a high sense of duty in resigning his position. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier held on to his job as long as he could, but the people to whom he had made these promises compelled him to resign. But if the hon. member for Jacques Cartier has been compelled to resign his position as Minister of Public Works by a high sense of duty, what about the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Nantel), the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Pelletier), and other members of the Government? Are they moved by a high sense of duty in staying in the Government? I am surprised that these hon. gentlemen, after hearing the Prime Minister make that statement, did not resign their seats. The people in Quebec who heard these hon. gentlemen making these speeches from one end of the province to the other, expected that just as soon as this Bill should be brought down they would resign their seats and go back and offer themselves for re-election. I support a Canadian navy, but if we have this \$35,000,000 to expend, why does not the Prime Minister offer it to the different provinces, according to their population, and let them build good roads with it?